

Message Text

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TREASURY - GPARSKY

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S/S-O: LMATTESON

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 273497

EXDIS TOSEC 139

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, ECIN, SA, US

SUBJECT: RESCHEDULING OF US-SAUDI ECONOMIC COOPERATION
COMMISSION MEETING

1. YOU SHOULD APPROACH MINISTER ABA AL-KHAIL OR OTHER
APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIAL PROMPTLY REGARDING TIMING OF FIRST
MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOW SCHEDULED FOR RIYADH ON JANUARY 5-6. SAY THAT YOU
HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON TO EXPLAIN
URGENTLY THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SIMON HAVE AGREED
THAT LATTER'S PRESENCE IN THE US IS REQUIRED THROUGHOUT
THE EARLY PART OF JANUARY IN CONNECTION WITH INTENSIVE
CONSIDERATION OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES. AS SAG DOUBT-
LESS ALREADY AWARE, REVIEW OF INTERNAL ECONOMIC POLICY
HAS ALREADY BEEN UNDER WAY HERE FOR SOME TIME WITH A VIEW
TO EARLY DECISIONS ON NUMBER OF ISSUES (E.G., STEPS TO
COMBAT INFLATION, ANTI-RECESSION MEASURES, ENERGY POLICY)
WHICH ARE OF EXTREMELY HIGH IMPORTANCE. IT IS THE PRESI-
DENT'S DESIRE TO COMPLETE THESE REVIEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
SO THAT POLICY DECISIONS MAY BE TAKEN WITH A MINIMUM OF
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DELAY. IN THIS REGARD, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT JANUARY IS

KEY MONTH INASMUCH AS NEW CONGRESS WILL BE CONVENING AND MAJOR STATEMENTS ON ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICY ARE PLANNED.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL AL-KHAIL THAT SIMON THEREFORE REGRETS DEEPLY IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO COME TO RIYADH

FOR FIRST MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMISSION AS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 5-6. SIMON IS CONFIDENT THAT AL-KHAIL WILL FULLY APPRECIATE THE REASONS FOR THIS CHANGE IN PLANS, WHICH IN ABSOLUTELY NO WAY INDICATES ANY DIMINUTION OF OUR DESIRE AND INTENTION TO MOVE AHEAD AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE WITH MAJOR POSITIVE STEPS IN OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF OUR JOINT COMMISSION.

3. TELL AL-KHAIL THAT SIMON IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE HIM AND SAUDI DELEGATION HERE IN WASHINGTON FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING ON JANUARY 5-6. IF AL-KHAIL CAN COME AT THAT TIME, WE WILL DO OUR VERY BEST TO INSURE USEFUL MEETING IN THE POSITIVE SPIRIT WITH WHICH WE HAVE ENTERED INTO THIS NEW AND VERY IMPORTANT PHASE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. IN THAT EVENT, AGENDA WE HAVE HAD IN MIND FOR RIYADH MEETING WOULD SIMPLY BE TRANSFERRED TO WASHINGTON ON THE SAME DATES.

4. IF AL-KHAIL NOT ABLE TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR JANUARY 5-6 MEETING, SIMON PROPOSES THAT COMMISSION MEETING BE RESCHEDULED IN RIYADH ON FEBRUARY 22-23. IF SUCH RESCHEDULING ACCEPTABLE TO SAG AND PREFERRED OVER EARLY JANUARY MEETING IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD USE THE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR CONTINUED INTENSIVE PREPARATIONS WITH A VIEW TO INSURING THE MOST USEFUL SESSIONS POSSIBLE.

5. IF IT SHOULD BE AGREED TO RESCHEDULE COMMISSION MEETING FOR RIYADH IN FEBRUARY, ASSISTANT TREASURY SECRETARY PARSKY WOULD BE PREPARED TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA ON JANUARY 5-6 IN ORDER TO REVIEW INTENDED COMMISSION AGENDA AND OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS WITH SAG OFFICIALS. PARSKY'S VISIT COULD THUS HELP TO INSURE THAT OUR PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PARATIONS FOR COMMISSION MEETING WOULD BE MOST PRODUCTIVE.

6. PLEASE REPORT PROMPTLY ON RESULTS OF YOUR DISCUSSION WITH SAUDIS AND LET US HAVE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO FURTHER STEPS WE SHOULD BE TAKING.

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